

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides methods for producing viruses, whose propagation depends on the cleavage of viral protein by a protease, in a manner independent of the protease.

5 The methods of the present invention for producing viruses comprise producing viruses in the presence of a modified viral protein in which the protease cleavage sequence is changed to a cleavage sequence for an alternative protease. Viral vectors can be more efficiently produced by replacing the protease cleavage sequence with a cleavage sequence for a protease expressed endogenously in virus-producing cells. The methods of the present invention enable the

10 production of high titer viruses using a wide variety of cells.